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Book Notices.

The Fourth Gospel.

The Gospel of St. John, Vol. I. Chs. 1-11. [The Expositor's Bible.] By Marcus Dods, D. D. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son, 1891. Pp. xiii., 388. Price, \$1.50.

The two volumes already contributed by Dr. Dods to this valuable expository series have been so warmly welcomed and praised that a similar reception will naturally be accorded his latest book. It is not, however, the equal of either the volume on First Corinthians or that on Genesis. Oddly enough, the question of the authorship of the Gospel is not taken up at all, and the supposition all the way through is, that it is literally and unqualifiedly the work of the Apostle. That was the easiest way to treat the problem, and perhaps it seemed to Dr. Dods that Prof. Sanday's present prolonged discussion would in due time leave the question settled in favor of the Johannean authorship. One feels inclined to put an interrogation point after the introductory statement that "in the whole range of literature there is no composition which is a more perfect work of art * * there is no paragraph, sentence or expression which is out of its place, or with which we could dispense. * * The sequence may at times be obscure, but sequence there always is." Later, in speaking of the cleansing of the temple, which in this Gospel is placed at the outset of the ministry, Dr. Dods says: "[even so early in his public career Jesus] had made up his mind that he would meet with opposition at every point, and that while a faithful few would stand by him, the leaders of the people would certainly resist and destroy him." This of course satisfies the Johannean account, but how about the Synoptic representation upon that point? And with equal confidence and decisiveness many other of the controverted topics are treated, a phenomenon a little astonishing. But while the volume fails of satisfying the critical reader it is nevertheless a valuable contribution to the literature on this Gospel. The treatment is topical, not exhaustive, yet the main themes of the Gospel are discussed, and with a vigor, freshness, insight and scholarliness that attract and instruct the reader. The chapter upon the miracle at Cana, for instance, is particularly good. The didactic element is large, in accordance with the style of the series, and one finds Dr. Dods to be a keen, spiritual and persuasive preacher.

The Acts of the Apostles.

The Acts of the Apostles. Vol. I. Chas. 1-9. [The Expositor's Bible.] By G. T. Stokes, D. D. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son, 1891. Pp. xxiii., 424. Price, \$1.50.

For the next two years, and through the agency of the International Sunday School Lessons, the attention and study of Christendom will be centred upon the Acts of the Apostles, and certainly no New Testament writing calls for or deserves more devoted investigation and consideration. The volumes upon the Acts in the Expositor's Bible series will be ready in time for this study. They have been given into the loving, able and trustworthy hands of Dr. Stokes,